

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
20 January 2005 (20.01.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/004646 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **A24B 15/18, 3/12**

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/IB2004/002222

(22) International Filing Date: 7 July 2004 (07.07.2004)

(25) Filing Language: Italian

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
MI2003A001442 15 July 2003 (15.07.2003) IT

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):
MEDICAMENTA S.R.L. [IT/IT]; Via San Felice
105/a, I-40122 Bologna (IT).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **MERCATI, Valentino**
[IT/IT]; Aboca, 17, I-52037 Sansepolcro (IT).

(74) Agents: **MINOJA, Fabrizio** et al.; Bianchetti Bracco Mi-
noja S.r.l., Via Plinio, 63, I-20129 Milano (IT).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,

AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,
CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI,
GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE,
KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD,
MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG,
PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM,
TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM,
ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM,
ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI,
FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI,
SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ,
GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the
claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of
amendments

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: PROCESS FOR OBTAINING TOBACCO LEAVES WITH A STANDARDIZED NICOTINE CONTENT AND/OR
IMPROVED COMBUSTIBILITY

(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a process for the preparation of tobacco leaves with a standardized nicotine content and/or improved combustibility, for use in the manufacture of smoking products such as cigarettes, cigars and shags. Said method comprises drying and curing of tobacco leaves (*Nicotiana tabacum*), extraction of the dried leaves with a mixture of organic solvent and water, re-drying of the extracted leaves to a controlled moisture value, and finally, elimination of the ribs. The leaves thus obtained are suitably mixed with excipients and flavourings, and shredded to make cigarettes, cigars, etc...

WO 2005/004646 A1